

Bromus inermis - (Pascopyrum smithii) Semi-natural Herbaceous Vegetation

COMMON NAME	Smooth Brome - (Western Wheatgrass) Semi-natural Herbaceous Vegetation
SYNONYM	Smooth Brome Semi-natural GrasslandPHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS Herbaceous Vegetation (V)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Perennial graminoid vegetation (V.A)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (V.A.5.N)
FORMATION	Medium-tall bunch temperate or subpolar grassland (V.A.5.N.d)
ALLIANCE	BROMUS INERMIS SEMI-NATURAL HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE
CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL	3
USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM	Terrestrial

RANGE

Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge

Introduced, exotic grasslands occur throughout the Refuge and are associated with disturbances such as roadsides, abandoned farm fields, and areas that were interseeded with exotic grasses to "improve" the range for grazing. Areas especially noted are adjacent to the Refuge roads and facilities and abandoned or reclaimed agricultural fields.

Globally

This type occurs widely throughout the northern Great Plains, and perhaps more widely in the Midwest, depending on how the type is defined.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

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Introduced grasslands are on relatively level sites accessible to farming equipment. Typically the soils are silt and/or clay loams, which historically supported western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*) alliance grasslands.

Globally

This type can occur in a wide variety of human-disturbed habitats, including highway rights-of-way, jeep trails, etc. It is also widely planted for cover, pasture, and hay, and has escaped into a variety of habitats.

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

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<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Herbaceous	<i>Bromus inermis</i>

Globally

<u>Stratum</u>	<u>Species</u>
Graminoid	<i>Bromus inermis</i>

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

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Bromus inermis, *Pascopyrum smithii*, *Bromus japonicus*, *Psoraleidium tenuiflorum*

Globally

Bromus inermis, *Pascopyrum smithii*

OTHER NOTABLE SPECIES

(n/a)

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

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Stands of introduced grasses typically have moderate herbaceous cover, ranging from 40-90%, and very dense litter over the ground surface. Along roadsides, smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) is strongly dominant, with alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) and yellow sweetclover (*Melilotus officianalis*) included in the plantings along some highways. Many species of forbs and occasional shrubs are also found in the type.

Globally

The vegetation is dominated by medium-tall (0.5 - 1 m) graminoids. The dominant grass is *Bromus inermis*, a naturalized species from Europe and Asia. Other weedy species may occur as well, but native species are generally less than 10% cover. Native species may include mixed-grass prairie grasses, such as *Pascopyrum smithii* and *Hesperostipa comata*, as well as others.

CONSERVATION RANK GW. This is a naturalized type from Europe and Asia, widely planted for cover, pasture, and hay, and has escaped into a variety of habitats.

DATABASE CODE C EGL005264

SIMILAR ASSOCIATIONS

COMMENTS

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The introduced grassland group occupies previously disturbed sites, including roadsides, abandoned agricultural fields, and interseeded rangeland. Stands of brome grass tend to be monotypic. They tend to have dense litter layers.

Globally

This type could be defined very broadly to include almost any *Bromus inermis* dominated stand, in which case the variability of the minor species associated with the type may be very high.

REFERENCES

(n/a)